

NASHVILLE, TENN.
TENNESSEAN

MORNING 128,798
SUNDAY 205,377

MAY 13 1961

Holding of Cubans Is Indefensible

IN ADDITION to the many criticisms directed at the Central Intelligence Agency over the Cuban invasion mess, there are fresh accusations even more deeply disturbing.

There is the report the CIA imprisoned an anti-Castro leader and 16 companions for 11 weeks before and after the invasion. The group, according to a story in the *New York Times*, attributed the imprisonment to their opposition to the faction backed by the CIA.

Now, the *Associated Press* says there is reason to believe the United States is holding survivors of the invasion forces incommunicado on a Caribbean island.

The muffing of the invasion is one thing; but it is something else again if, for no other reason than to hide the extent of the botchery, survivors are held until some of the furore dies down. With respect to the report of 17 held prisoner because they opposed another anti-Castro group, this transcends all arbitrary powers one might even suspect of an intelligence organization.

Such tactics are for despots. The taste of failure is bitter enough without added gall of what smacks of Draconian methods. It is hoped the administration's scrutiny of CIA deals at length with this facet of misadventure.